

back, until after a progress of over one hundred miles, the two armies came within sight of Atlanta.

Johnston's retreat was a masterpiece of military strategy. His object was to prolong the campaign and, above all, to hold Atlanta until after the approaching presidential election at the North. Had that city remained in Confederate hands during the fall, it might have led to the victory of the Northern party which had pronounced the war a failure. Jefferson Davis now committed the fatal blunder of removing the prudent Johnston from com-



THE CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL ON STONE MOUNTAIN, ATLANTA, GEORGIA

This is a photograph of the sculptor's clay model. General Lee is the central figure. When finished the group will be 1350 feet in length and 200 feet in height. At present only General Lee's head is finished. The completion of this immense work will require about eight years. (World Wide photograph.)

mand, and appointing General John B. Hood in his place. Abandoning Johnston's Fabian policy, Hood flung his army against Sherman in three pitched battles in a vain endeavor to stem the Union advance. Beaten back to the inner defenses of Atlanta, even Hood at last realized that his army could be saved only by flight. At the very time when the Democratic National Convention at Chicago was proclaiming the war a failure, Sherman was occupying Atlanta, the strongest citadel in the center of what remained of the Confederacy (September 1, 1864).

→ over

CHAPTER XXVIII

THE EASTERN THEATER OF WAR

General McClellan takes command. While the Union armies were winning victories in the West, fortune in the eastern theater of war seemed to favor the South. After the rout of the Union army at Bull Run, General George B. McClellan was recalled from West Virginia to take command of the troops defending Washington. A graduate of West Point, McClellan had served with distinction in the Mexican War; and soon after the attack on Fort Sumter, he was commissioned as major-general in command of the Ohio militia. The success of his brief campaign in West Virginia was magnified far beyond its real merit. He had driven the Confederates from western Virginia in a series of skirmishes, but this result was largely due to the fact that the

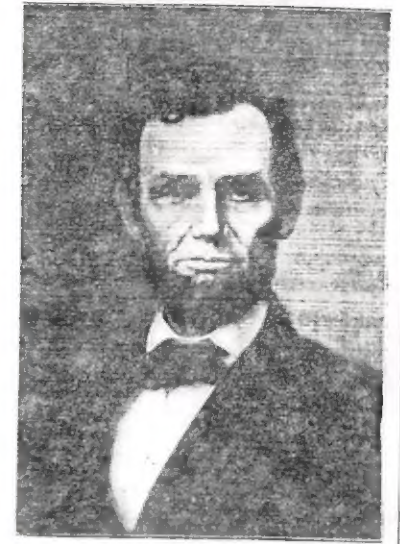


PRESIDENT LINCOLN WITH A GROUP OF HIS GENERALS

population of that section was steadfastly loyal. It was unfortunate for the youthful commander — he was then in his thirty-fifth year — that he was so soon called upon to assume the vast responsibility of directing the Union armies. As Grant afterwards said: "If McClellan had gone into the army as did Sherman, Thomas, or Meade, had fought his way along and up, I have no

*"History of United States," by Guilleau
p 441*

→ over



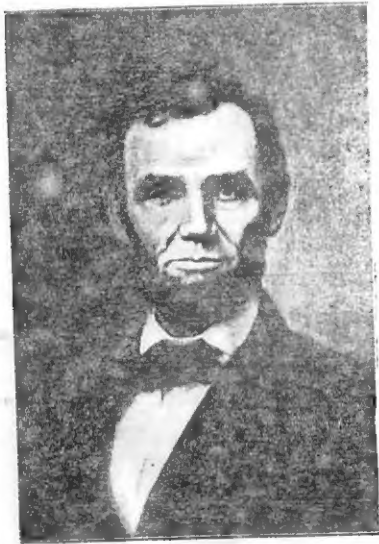
PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

*Lincoln assassinated
14 Apr 1865 at
Ford's Theatre*

*Civil War ended
9 Apr 1865*

pressed the joy he felt in witnessing the loyalty of the masses of the people." The "Vedette" expressed itself in a similar tone.

Mourning for Lincoln. A few weeks later the awful news was flashed over the wires that President Lincoln had been assassinated (April 14, 1865). Utah bowed her head in sorrow, and civilians and soldiers, again uniting, mourned over the Nation's martyr. It was Saturday, the fifteenth, when the tidings came. Concerning what followed, the "Vedette" said: "The



PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

and every one throughout the city, that is, of the right-minded class, manifested the deepest sorrow

merchants, bankers, saloon keepers, and all business men of Salt Lake City closed their places of business at ten a. m. on Saturday. The flags on all the public buildings, Brigham Young's residence, stores, etc., were displayed at half mast, with crape drooping over them. Many of the principal stores and private residences were dressed in mourning. Brigham Young's carriage was driven through town covered with crape,

at the horrible news conveyed by the telegraph."*

Early Mining Unprofitable. General Connor went on maturing his plans for the development of the mining resources of the Territory. It was up-hill work, and he all but impoverished himself by his strenuous exertions. Many mines were located, considerable ore was extracted, and some smelting done in Rush Valley, but mining in these parts was not a paying industry until after the arrival of the railroad.

*On the day of the President's burial a joint service was held in the Tabernacle. City Marshal Jesse C. Little had charge of the proceedings, and Amasa M. Lyman and Chaplain McLeod were the speakers. The opening and closing prayers were by Wilford Woodruff and Franklin D. Richards.